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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

The attached communication from the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations, dated 17 June 1997, submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, is circulated in compliance with the request that it be placed formally on record and brought to the attention of all members of UNCTAD.[1]

[1] English translation provided by the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations in New York.

GE.97-51267

(Translation)

CGD/97/34

New York, 17 June 1997

Your Excellency,

I am instructed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, with reference to the continued participation of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China in the activities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as from 1 July 1997, to inform Your Excellency of the following declaration of the Government of the People's Republic of China:

In accordance with the Joint Declaration of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Question of Hong Kong signed in Beijing on 19 December 1984, the People's Republic of China will resume the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong with effect from 1 July 1997 Hong Kong as an inalienable part of the territory of the Peoiple's Republic of China will, with effect from that date, become a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and enjoy a high degree of autonomy, except in foreign and defence affairs, which are the responsibilities of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China. The People's Republic of China will assume international responsibility for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

I am also instructed to declare that the People's Republic of China is a member of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and that its membership shall include the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region with effect

H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

from 1 July 1997, representatives of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, may, as and when the need arises, participate, as members of the delegation of the Government of the People's Republic of China, in the meeting of the UN Conference on Trade and Development. Where meetings are jointly organized by the UN Conference on Trade and Development and another international organization in which Hong Kong Administrative Region has attained membership or associate membership, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region may participate in the capacity it has attained in the other organization. In addition, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region shall continue to enjoy the preferencial trade arrangements provided to Hong Kong by donor countries under the Generalized System of Preferences.

I should be grateful if the contents of this Note could be placed formally on record and brought to the attention of other members of the UN Conference on Trade and Development.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Wang Xuexian (signed)

Acting Permanent Representative of the
People's Republic of China to the
United Nations
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary